

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ACDA-10 /088 W

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R 041404Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6948

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3450

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, XF

SUBJ: RABIN TV INTERVIEW OF JUNE 3

1. PM RABIN SAT FOR HOUR-LONG INTERVIEW ON POPULAR ISRAELI TV SHOW JUNE 3. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS FROM GOI PRESS OFFICE TRANSLATION. (FBIS TRANSMITTING TEXT OF FOREIGN POLICY PORTIONS.)

2. SYRIA. AFTER FIRST APPEARING TO AVOID DIRECT ANSWER TO QUESTION CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER WITHDRAWAL ON GOLAN HEIGHTS, RABIN WHEN PRESSED SAID QUOTE THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT REALITY CALLS FOR NEGOTIATION WITH SYRIA. I STILL SEE VIRTUALLY NO PATH TO AN ADDITIONAL INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH SYRIA, SINCE ISRAEL'S POSSIBILITY OF MANEUVER ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS IS VERY LIMITED..UNQUOTE.

3. DURATION OF SECOND-STAGE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. ASKED TO CLARIFY QUESTION OF DURATION FROM ISRAEL VIEW-POINT, RABIN SAID QUOTE THERE ARE TWO ELEMENTS DETERMINING ITS DURATION. THERE IS THE OVERALL FORMULATION. THE OVERALL FORMULATION PROPOSED WAS THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD

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CONTINUE IN FORCE AS LONG AS IT IS NOT REPLACED BY ANOTHER

AGREEMENT. BUT ONE MUST BEAR IN MIND THAT THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, TOO, IS UNLIMITED IN TIME IN ITS OVERALL FORMULATION.. AT THE SAME TIME, REALITY PROVES THAT, IN PRACTICE, THE DURATION OF VALIDITY OF AN AGREEMENT IS DETERMINED BY THE DURATION OF THE MANDATE OF THE UN FORCES. THE UN FORCES HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE, BOTH IN MANNING THE BUFFER-ZONE AND IN IMPLEMENTING SUPERVISION OF THE REDUCTION-OF-FORCES AGREEMENT, WHICH ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS. THEREFORE, THE DURATION OF VALIDITY OF THE UN MANDATE IS THE CONCRETE, REAL FACT DETERMINING THE DURATION OF VALIDITY OF THE AGREEMENT. THE EGYPTIANS AGREED TO A YEAR, WITH READINESS TO PROLONGATION ANNUALLY. WE SOUGHT A WAY THAT WOULD ASSURE US.. A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME, MORE THAN THREE YEARS. WE RECEIVED NO SATISFACTORY REPLY ON THIS ISSUE. IT WAS STATED THAT IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE PROCESS TO BEGIN UPON THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES EXPECTATIONS FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS OR TWO YEARS. BUT AGAIN, THIS IS IN THE NATURE OF EXPECTATIONS, AND NOT A COMMITMENT. UNQUOTE. (PRIOR TO RABIN'S ANSWER, MODERATOR STATED THAT, ACCORDING TO "THE AMERICANS", "EGYPT HAS OSTENSIBLY OFFERED US FIVE YEARS".)

4. PASSAGE OF ISRAELI CARGO THROUGH SUEZ CANAL. INTERVIEWER, HAVING SUGGESTED THAT "IT SAYS IN THE EARLIER AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT THAT THEY SHOULD ALLOW THE PASSAGE OF CARGO TO ISRAEL", ASKED RABIN IF ISRAEL WOULD INSIST ON THAT. RABIN REPLIED QUOTE WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT, THERE IS GREAT REASONABLENESS IN YOUR WORDS. (SIC) ANYHOW, I DO NOT WANT TO ENGAGE NOW IN HYPOTHESIS IN CASE SOMEONE DOES NOT FULFILL THINGS WHICH HE UNDERTOOK. THE ISRAELI REACTION TO THAT WILL IN NO WAY BE WITHIN THE MILITARY SPHERE. THE ISRAELI REACTION TO THAT WILL BE IN THE PROCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHAT HAS BEEN AGREED UPON IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND IN PUTTING INTO PRACTICE THE EARLIER COMMITMENTS. UNQUOTE.

5. OVERALL SETTLEMENT. ASKED WHETHER ISRAEL IS READY FOR PEACE WITHIN THE PRE-1967 BORDERS, RABIN REPLIED QUOTE FIRST OF ALL, WE ARE NOT BEING OFFERED THE SAME PEACE YOU UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE REFERRING TO. EVEN WHEN A PARTICULAR ARAB LEADER - PRESIDENT SADAT, LET US SAY, OR, TO A LESSER DEGREE, PRESIDENT ASSAD - SAYS "PEACE" ON THE CONDITION OF WITHDRAWAL TO THE LINES OF 4 JUNE 1967 - OR, MORE PRECISELY, TO THE 1949 ARMISTICE LINES - HE ADDS: LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. AND ARAFAT IS GIVEN POWER-OF-ATTORNEY TO SAY WHAT THOSE RIGHTS ARE. THAT IS TO SAY, WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE SAME PEACE.. WHAT THEY MEAN IS:

A RETURN TO THE LINES OF 4 JUNE 1967, AND PARTICULARLY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ARAFATIAN STATE IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA AND GAZA - AND THIS IS NOT A FORMULA FOR PEACE BUT FOR WAR LINES, AND UNDER THE GRAVEST CONDITIONS POSSIBLE FOR ISRAEL. UNQUOTE.

6. ISRAEL'S SECURITY. QUERIED AS TO WHAT HE REGARDED AS THE CENTRAL ELEMENTS OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY, RABIN SAID QUOTE IF WE GET PEACE, WE HAVE TO GUARANTEE OURSELVES SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT EVEN OCCASIONALLY BE EXPRESSED IN DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES BEYOND THE ISRAELI SPHERE OF SOVEREIGNTY, OR FIND EXPRESSION IN BORDER ADJUSTMENTS THAT LATER SOVEREIGNTY..UNQUOTE. ASKED TO ELABORATE, RABIN CONTINUED QUOTE AT A CERTAIN STAGE IN 1973, THE SENIOR OFFICIAL IN DR KISSINGER'S ENTOURAGE APPROACHED US WITH AN IDEA: WOULD ISRAEL AGREE TO A FORMULA WITH EGYPT WHICH WOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOLUTION - SOVEREIGNTY VERSUS SECURITY? THAT ISRAEL SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE (EGYPTIAN) SOVEREIGNTY OVER VIRTUALLY ALL OF SINAI, AND THAT EGYPT SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE FACT THAT ISRAEL AS A JUSTIFIABLE CONCERN FOR SECURITY, AND WOULD THEREFORE PERMIT ISRAEL TO DEPLOY FORCES IN TERRITORY WHICH IS UNDER EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY FOR A PERIOD OF TIME WHICH COULD BE TWENTY OR FIFTY YEARS. THERE HAVE BEEN SUCH PRECEDENTS.. ISRAEL GAVE HIM AN ANSWER - PLEASE CHECK. HE IN FACT RETURNED WITH A NEGATIVE REPLY..UNQUOTE. RABIN WENT ON TO SAY HE WOULD "NOT TOTALLY RULE OUT" APPLICATION OF SAME PRINCIPLE TO WEST BANK.

7. UNILATERAL THIN-OUT IN SINAI. ASKED WHAT, IF ANYTHING, ISRAEL EXPECTED IN RETURN, RABIN REPLIED QUOTE THIS STEP WAS UNDERTAKEN AS A UNILATERAL STEP BY ISRAEL, WITHOUT ANY EXPECTATION OF GETTING AN IMMEDIATE REACTION IN THE PRACTICAL SPHERE. THE STEP WAS UNDERTAKEN IN ORDER TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CREATE A MORE TRANQUIL ATMOSPHERE, TO EXPRESS ISRAELI READINESS FOR THIS NOT ONLY VERBALLY, BUT ALSO IN DEED - BE IT ONLY LIMITED - WHICH ALSO CARRIES WITH IT A CERTAIN ELEMENT OF RISK, AS BACKGROUND FOR THE CONTINUATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY. I WANT IT MADE CLEAR: THIS DOES NOT ABSOLVE US FROM SUBSTANTIVE ENTRY INTO DISCUSSION AS TO WHAT IS TO BE DONE POLITICALLY - WHETHER WE SHOULD ADVANCE TOWARDS AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT, OR PROCEED TOWARDS AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. THIS GESTURE IS NOT IN LIEU OF DEALING WITH A POLITICAL SITUATION. UNQUOTE
VELIOTES

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